

Position Classification Flysheet for Packaging Series, GS-2032

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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions that involve planning, designing, and developing packaging methods and techniques, and directing the use of packages and packaging materials to protect supplies, materials, and equipment between the time of purchase and use. This occupation requires knowledge of packaging and preservation methods, material, regulations, specifications, and guidelines. It also requires knowledge of methods and techniques to prevent environmental and mechanical damage during handling, shipping, and storage.

This series coverage standard supersedes the standard for the Packaging Series, GS-2032, dated February 1971.

EXCLUSIONS

Classify positions in the [General Engineering Series, GS-0801](#) or the [Materials Engineering Series, GS-0806](#), when they involve the application of professional knowledge of engineering fundamentals, such as strength and strain analysis and the physical and chemical characteristics of materials used in packaging.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

The work in this occupation involves --

- determining the best method of packaging particular materials;
- establishing packaging standards;
- developing or reviewing packaging specifications;
- evaluating packaging methods;
- advising on packaging matters; and
- supervising and managing packaging programs.

The term "packaging" includes a variety of activities to insure that supplies, materials, and equipment are protected against damage from mechanical force (weight, pressure, impact) and against deterioration from heat, cold, dampness, or other environmental conditions during handling, transit, or storage. Knowledge requirements for the packaging specialist are allied with supply and transportation management functions. Recommendations and decisions made by employees are carefully documented for use by others. Documentation most often includes coded packaging instructions, according to a coding system peculiar to the packaging business, and narrative reports with drawings so the specific methodology can be repeated as required. The

packaging specialist analyzes packaging problems and develops specifications, guidelines, and plans for:

- cleaning, preserving, packing, and marking goods;
- forming cargo units;
- using material handling equipment, including automated and robot packaging operations;
and
- appropriate methods of storing supplies, materials, and equipment.

Some packaging specialists contribute initial engineering and development concepts that will be developed further by engineers. They must consider the compatibility of materials in terms of potential chemical reactions, toxicity, explosions, and corrosion. Packaging designs or recommendations include provision for separating incompatible items during shipping, storage, and use. The specialist determines the overall protection plan based on considerations such as:

- the nature of the item;
- the cost of the packaging;
- the amount of stress, strain, or damage to which the items may be subjected;
- the grouping of items in packages that will best meet the user's needs;
- alternative packaging methods in relation to the time available for packaging operations;
- methods of shipment; and
- potential for physical abuse from jostling while in transit and the ability to withstand impact of air drops.

Contract specifications developed by packaging specialists are stated either in terms of results, such as the pounds of pressure the package should withstand, or in terms of precise details of the package, and the tolerances allowed. Some packaging specialists perform contract negotiation and contract administration work. In this work the specialist --

- negotiates with prospective contractors on packaging costs and other contract provisions;
- determines the reasonableness of packaging costs through evaluation of contractor prices and procurement methods;
- evaluates the capability of contractors to furnish or design the kind of packaging required;

- reviews contracts for appropriateness and economy of the packaging requirement;
- or
- makes other similar analyses of packaging provisions and packaging or preservation requirements.

TITLING

Packaging Specialist is the title for nonsupervisory positions.

Supervisory Packaging Specialist is the title for all positions which meet the criteria in the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#) for classification as supervisors.

GRADING POSITIONS

Positions in this series are classified according to criteria contained in the [Grade Evaluation Guide for Supply Positions](#) or the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#).